

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJ: FINAL CANDIDATE LIST SET

1. SUMMARY: NOMINATION DAY PASSED PEACEFULLY WITH ABOUT 750 CANDIDATES REGISTERING TO CONTEST 168 SEATS AT THE JULY 21 ELECTION. THE SLFP AND UNP FIELDDED CANDIDATES FOR 147 AND 154 SEATS RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THE UNITED LEFT FRONT HAS PUT UP 128. THE LARGE NUMBER OF INDEPEDNENTS AND MINOR PARTY CANDIDATES MAKES MOST CONTESTS AT LEAST FOUR-CORNERED. A CURSORY LOOK AT THE PARTY LISTS INDICATES THATMOST SITTING CANDIDATES RECEIVED RENOMINATIONS AND THAT ONLY A FEW EX-M.P.'S AND EXPECTANT CANDIDATES WERE DISGRUNTLED ENOUGH TO DEFY PARTY DISCIPLINE AND RUN ON THEIR OWN. END SUMMARY.

2. NOMINATIONS FOR THE 168 SEATS AT THE JULY 21 GENERAL ELECTION WERE TAKEN AT GOVERNMENT OFFICES AROUND THE COUNTRY ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 6. GOOD HUMOR GENERALLY PREVAILED THEIR SUPPORTERS MINGLED PEACEFULLY. ONE EXCEPTION TO THE PREVAILING AMITY WAS JAFFNA WHERE TAMIL UNITED LIBERATION FRONT SUPPORTERS MADE KNOWN THEIR DISPLEASURE AT THE SIR LANKA FREEDOM PARTY AND UNITED NATIONAL PARTY RUNNING CANDIDATES IN THE
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TAMIL-DOMINATED NORTH. SANDALS WERE THROWN AND THE POLICE WRE CALLED IN TO CLEAR THE AREA.

3. A RECORD NUMBER OF CANDIDATES -- ABOUT 750 -- CAME FORWARD FOR NOMINATION. THE NEWSPAPER LISTS THIS MORNING HAVE DISCREPANCIES; WHAT FOLLOWS BELOW IS SUBJECT TO MINRO CORRECTIONS. THE UNP IS CONTESTING 154 SEATS, ALL EXCEPT SEVEN IN MULTI-

MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES (LEFT VACANT TO ENHANCE THE ELECTORAL CHANCES OF THEIR SINGLE CANDIDATE IN THOSE AREAS) AND SEVEN IN THE TAMIL AREAS. THE SLFP IS CONTESTING 147, BARRING FIVE SEATS IN MULTI-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES, NINE IN TAMIL AREAS, THREE WHERE THE PARTY IS SUPPORTING INDEPENDENTS, AND ONE WHERE THE CANDIDATE'S NOMINATION PAPERS WERE REJECTED. THE UNITED LEFT FRONT (FORMERLY THE SOCIALIST UNITED FRONT AND THE LEFT UNITED FRONT) PUT UP 128 CANDIDATES AND IS SUPPORTING FOUR OTHERS. THE TULF HAS PUT UP 24 CANDIDATES, THE CEYLON WORKERS CONGRESS 2, AND THE MAHAJANA EKSATH PERAMUNA 29. APPROXIMATELY 265 INDEPENDENTS WILL ALSO CONTEST THE ELECTION.

4. THE ONLY PARTY FACED WITH MORE THAN ONE OR TWO DEFECTORS WAS THE TULF WHICH WILL HAVE OPPOSITION FROM FOUR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE TAMIL CONGRESS, A CONSTITUENT PARTY OF THE FRONT. THE FOUR WILL BE RUNNING AS INDEPENDENTS. THE SLFP, WITH MORE SITTING MEMBERS AND CONSEQUENTLY FEWER SEATS TO DISTRIBUTE TO NEWCOMERS, ENDED UP WITH MORE DISSENSION IN THE NOMINATING PROCESS THAN DID THE UNP, WHICH SEEMED ABLE TO SATISFY MOST APPLICANTS AND WHICH HAD VIRTUALLY COMPLETED ITS LIST SOME MONTHS AGO. THE UNITED LEFT FRONT ALSO HAD NUMEROUS SEATS TO DISTRIBUTE, ALBEIT WITHOUT MUCH HOPE OF SUCCESS IN MOST.

5. A TENTATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATE LISTS TURNS UP AT LEAST 13 CANDIDATES WHO WERE INVOLVED DEEPLY IN THE 1971 INSURGENCY. OF THEM, ONLY S.D. BANDARANAYAKE, A MIDDLE-AGED EX-M.P., IS RUNNING ON THE SLFP TICKET AND NONE ARE ON THE UNP LIST. FIVE ARE RUNNING AS JANATHA VIMUKTI PERAMUNA MEMBERS (OFFICIALLY AS INDEPENDENTS), FOUR ON THE UNITED LEFT FRONT TICKET, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND AT LEAST THREE AS INDEPENDENTS.

6. THE SLFP HAS RENOMINATED ALL OF ITS CURRENT MINISTERS EXCEPT FOR MINISTER OF HEALTH SIVA OBEYSEKERA (WHO BOWED OUT IN FAVOR OF HER HUSBAND), LABOR MINISTER MICHAEL SIRIWARDENA (APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA), INFORMATION MINISTER R. S. PERERA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER W.P.G. ARIYADASA, AND SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTER S. S. KULATILAKE (WHO WAS AN APPOINTED M.P., A CATEGORY THAT NO LONGER EXISTS). DEPUTY SPEAKER I.A. CADER HAS ALSO BOWED OUT OF THE RACE, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CAIRO AMBASSADORSHIP. FINANCE MINISTER FELIX BANDARANAIKE, CURRENTLY IN LONDON, WAS RENOMINATED IN ABSENTIA FOR DOMPE CONSTITUENCY. THE P.M.'S SON ANURA FACES NO LESS THAN 13 OTHER CANDIDATES, MOST OF THEM INDEPENDENTS, IN THE RACE FOR THE THREE SEATS IN THE NUWARA ELIYA/MASKELIYA CONSTITUENCY.
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